

REMARKS

Claims 1-24 are pending in the above-identified application.

Allowed Claims 1-19

Claims 1-19 have been indicated as being allowed.

Objected Claims 22 and 23

Claims 22 and 23 have been indicated as being allowed and have merely been objected to as depending upon a rejected base claim.

Issue Under 35 U.S.C. 102(b)

Claims 20, 21 and 24 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Dinter '463 (USP 5,026,463). This rejection is traversed for the following reasons.

Distinctions Between Present Invention and Dinter '463

The rejected claims refer to an apparatus for producing a resin molded product containing an electrically conductive filler at a proportion of less than 20 wt% and having a surface resistance of not less than $10^5 \Omega/\square$ and not more than $10^{12} \Omega/\square$. In order to produce such a resin molded product, the apparatuses of claims 20 and 21 respectively include a voltage application section and an electrode. It is clearly recited in the claims that the voltage

application section and the electrode apply a certain voltage to the resin molded product. What is apparent from the context of the claims is that the voltage is directly applied to the resin molded product.

The Office Action states that Dinter '463 discloses an apparatus for treating polymer moldings comprising a grounded transport means and an electrode for application of high voltage of 20 to 70 kV. Claim 1 of Dinter '463 refers to a process for pretreating the surface of a molding of plastic by means of an electrical corona discharge treatment taking place in the space between high voltage electrodes and a grounded counter-electrode space therefrom. In this process, a homogeneous corona discharge is produced in the corona discharge zone formed between the high voltage electrodes and the grounded counter-electrode, and the surface of the molding is treated thereby. According to this description, it is clear that the described apparatus includes the grounded transport means and the electrode only for forming the corona discharge zone therebetween.

It is generally known and understood by one skilled in the art that the term "corona discharge" means one form of "gas discharge" emitting weak light. Therefore, the high voltage of 20 to 70 kV in Dinter '463 is applied to the atmospheric gas between the grounded transport means and the electrode in order to make it discharge,

and is not directly applied to the molding. In addition, Dinter '463 fails to mention or suggest that the voltage is directly applied to the molding.

In view of the above, it is clear that the rejected claims significantly differ from the disclosure of Dinter '463 in that the voltage is applied to the resin molded product in the apparatus of the present invention while, in contrast, the apparatus of Dinter '463 applies the voltage to the atmospheric gas between the grounded transport means and the electrode.

As the result of such a significant different, the apparatus of the rejected claims advantageously provides for a surface resistance of the resin molded product within the specific range described in the claims. On the contrary, the apparatus of Dinter '463 can merely chemically modify the surface of the molding (see column 4, lines 7-9) and does not control the surface resistance thereof.

In view of the above, it is submitted that the presently rejected claims patentably define over Dinter '463 such that the present application should be placed into condition for allowance.

Conclusion

If any questions arise regarding the above matters, please contact Applicant's representative, Andrew D. Meikle (Reg. No.

Appl. No. 09/869,262


32,868), in the Washington Metropolitan Area at the phone number listed below.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

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